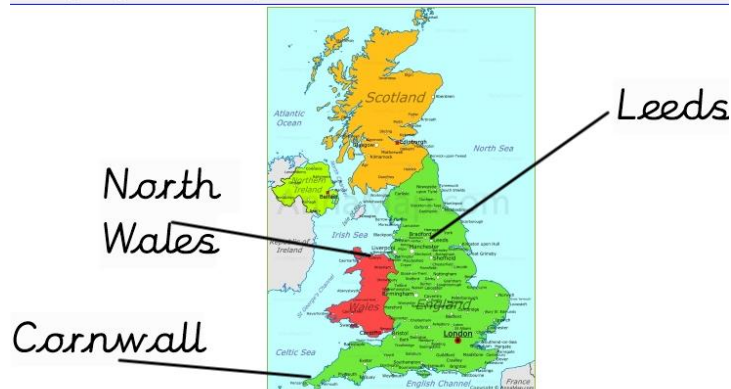


Bronze

During the Bronze Age, copper and tin became very important as these were the metals needed to make bronze. People needed to dig underground in mines to find them.

During the Bronze Age North Wales and Cornwall in the south west of England became very important. Cornwall was significant because it was the main source of tin.



The Great Orme in North Wales was also important because it one of prehistoric Britain's biggest copper mines. The Great Orme's mine had more than eight kilometres of tunnels spreading across nine different levels, reaching a depth of 70m! It has been estimated that in incredible 1,800 tonnes of copper were lifted out of the Great Orme during the Bronze Age.

Mining copper and tin was extremely difficult with very few tools available, archaeologists believe that stone hammers and bones were used to remove the metals from the rocks. Many of the tunnels in the underground copper and tin mines were so narrow that only children would be small enough to access them. These tunnels would have been extremely dark and dangerous.